

THE CINCINNATI OBSERVATORY:  
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 1998*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cincinnati Observatory in Cincinnati, Ohio, which recently received the National Park Service's designation as a National Historic Landmark.

The Cincinnati Observatory is a nationally significant historical site for its association with individuals, institutions and events related to astronomy. Its two structures, now on 11 acres, were designed by nationally recognized master architect Samuel Hannaford and built in 1873 and 1904.

The Cincinnati Observatory is the oldest functioning observatory in the United States. The original telescope was the largest in the U.S. and the second largest in the world at the time. The observatory was associated with the careers of such famous American astronomers as Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel (1809–1862), who published *Sidereal Messenger*, the first attempt to bring astronomy to the public and Cleveland Abbe (1838–1916), a meteorologist who instituted daily weather bulletins in 1869. Abbe's work became popular with the public and led directly to the creation of the federal agency National Weather Bureau in 1870.

Paul Hergert (1908–1981) the world's foremost authority on the commodation of planetary orbits, served as director of the Observatory from 1946–1978. Under his leadership, the observatory became the original location of the Minor Planet Center, which was founded in 1947 by the International Astronomical Union. For the work he initiated at the Observatory, Hergert was elected to the National Academy of Science in 1962.

The Cincinnati Observatory embodies the rich history of American astronomy. It has gained international prominence for its landmark work in field of proper motions, gravitational studies and sidereal astronomy, including double stars, nebulae and clusters. Today, it serves as a vibrant public resource on the history and practice of astronomy.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati congratulate the Cincinnati Observatory, the Cincinnati Planning Association and the Observatory Planning Committee for their hard work and dedication to preserve this window to the past and inspiration for the future.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK T. VOTTO,  
Ed.D.

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 1998*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Frank T. Votto, Ed.D., Superintendent of the Nutley School District who is retiring after 16 years of service to the Town of Nutley.

Frank has been a public school and collegiate educator for 35 years in New Jersey. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Social Studies from Montclair State, a Master of Arts degree in Administration and Super-

vision from Kean College, and a Doctor of Education in administration, Curriculum, and Supervision from Rutgers University. He has served as an Adjunct Professor in Reading Studies at Middlesex County College, 1970–71, as Assistant Director of the Evening Division, 1971–72, also at Middlesex County College, and as House Principal of Plainfield High School, 1972–81.

Frank joined the Nutley School District in 1982, serving as Principal of Nutley High School. He served in this capacity until 1986 when he was promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Nutley. Ten years later he was promoted to Superintendent of Schools for the Nutley School District.

Frank is a representative of the New Jersey Association of School Administrators and served as President of the Assistant Superintendents Roundtable for Essex County. Since 1978, he has also served as Adjunct Professor in Administration, Curriculum, and Supervision at Jersey City State College.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Frank's family and friends, and the Town of Nutley in recognizing the many outstanding and invaluable contributions Dr. Frank T. Votto has made to the Public School System of Nutley, New Jersey.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF TAI-  
WAN PRESIDENT DR. LEE TENG-  
HUI'S INAUGURATION

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 1998*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in 1996, Dr. Lee Teng-hui was sworn in as the ninth President of Taiwan, Republic of China after having been elected in the first-ever popular election held in this island nation. This year marks the second year of his inauguration into office.

In addition to being one of our closest associates in Asia, Taiwan has steadily matured as an economic stronghold. The last few years has seen the republic's economy grow at a spectacular rate. It is currently one of the United States' largest trading partners.

As the delegate from Guam, I recognize the fact that the island and people that I represent share deep cultural and historical ties with Taiwan. My constituency includes a substantial number of Taiwanese immigrants. As in numerous locales, Taiwanese immigrants have integrated themselves with our island community over the years and have emerged as a vital force in the development and growth of Guam. In addition, Taiwanese tourists contribute to the island's economy. Made possible by the visa-waiver program recently implemented for Taiwanese citizens, Guam has greatly benefited from the business they bring.

We applaud Taiwan's economic achievements and political progress. I am positive that their leaders, many of whom were educated in the United States, will continue to lead their nation towards prosperity and success.

On behalf of the people of Guam I would like to congratulate President Lee Teng-hui on the second anniversary of his inauguration as president. I join them the people of Taiwan in their celebrations and wish them continued prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER ROBERT  
WALKER DURFEY, JR.

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 1998*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding patriot, United States Coast Guard Commander Robert Walker Durfey, Jr. Today, in Corpus Christi, friends and colleagues will celebrate Commander Durfey's tenure, to date, in service to the United States. All of us wish him well as he continues his service in California.

During Commander Durfey's tenure at Group and Air Station Corpus Christi as Deputy Group Commander and Air Station Executive Officer, I have become familiar with his efficiency and uncanny ability to exercise good judgment in delicate situations. He was thoughtful about keeping my office apprised of situations as they occurred with regard to matters of security. He played a pivotal role in Operation Gulf Shield, the largest multi-agency counter-drug operation in the history of the United States.

As a former law enforcement officer myself, I am deeply aware of the price illegal drugs exact from our communities and our nation. Commander Durfey and I share a commitment to keeping drugs off the streets of our country. This warrior has been diligent and dignified in carrying out the policies of the United States; he is a true public servant.

But that is not the entire reason the Coastal Bend of South Texas will miss him. He is just an outstanding human being. He is a devoted Christian with a beautiful family. He is decent and dedicated to the service, to his family, but most of all to his men. He is thoughtful of the sailors in the ranks, and deeply respectful of his superiors.

He has the highest level of commitment and represents the height of integrity. If you are looking for an honest man, go meet Commander Durfey. He is always willing to go the extra mile for his duty; he is determined to do the job well. The Coast Guard is genetic with him. His father was Rear Admiral Robert Durfey (USCG, retired) and Commander Durfey readily admits to being in the Coast Guard "all his bloom'n' life."

We will miss him in the Coastal Bend, but we can find great comfort that he will continue his quality service in northern California, which is familiar territory to him. He attended high school in Alameda and now returns with a vast amount of experience under his belt. While I cannot be at his ceremony today, I hope all of you will join me in commending this outstanding public servant and dedicated Coastie.

REMEMBERING JOHN B. BENNETT

**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 1998*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the dedication of a plaque commemorating the service of Mr. John B. Bennett, which occurred in my District this past Saturday at the West Side Rowing Club.